

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9887

INFO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, PINT, UNGA, DA

SUBJECT: DANISH UN AMBASSADOR MILDLY REPRIMANDED

REF A. COPENHAGEN 2870 B. COPENHAGEN 2838

SUMMARY: THE LATEST DANISH FOREIGN AFFAIRS FUMBLING WHICH HAS INDIRECTLY DAMAGED FOREIGN MINISTER OVE GULDBERG, HAS PRODUCED PRESS CONTROVERSY AND PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS. THE CULPRIT IN THIS AFFAIR HAS BEEN DANISH UN AMBASSADOR HANS TABOR WHO ALLEGEDLY PROMOTED A "YES" VOTE IN THE CORRIDORS IN NEW YORK ON THE PLO REPRESENTATION ISSUE AT THE SAME TIME HE FOLLOWED MFA INSTRUCTIONS TO ABSTAIN. END SUMMARY.

1. THE EXACT SEQUENCE OF EVENTS IS NOT CLEAR. APPARENTLY TABOR RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE MFA TO ABSTAIN AFTER HAVING EXPRESSED RATHER WIDELY HIS PERSONAL OPINION THAT THE DANISH POSITION FOLLOWING OTHER NORDIC COUNTRIES, SHOULD BE POSITIVE ON THE PLO. SOME DANISH NEWSPAPERS HAVE CHARGED THAT TABOR, ALTHOUGH ULTIMATELY ABSTAINING

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AS INSTRUCTED, MADE CLEAR TO ANYONE WHO WOULD LISTEN

THAT HE WAS DOING SO AGAINST HIS OWN PERSONAL CONVICTIONS.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER OVE GULDBERG HAD TO RUSH FROM A HALF HOUR'S CONVERSATION WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER ON OCTOBER 23 TO RESPOND TO FOLKETING QUESTIONS ON TABOR'S CONDUCT. GULDBERG SATISFIED, OR AT LEAST MOLLIFIED, PARLIAMENTARY CONCERN BY A STATEMENT WHICH, "WITHOUT WANTING TO CALL WHAT HAS TAKEN PLACE INCORRECT" FOUND AFTER A "TOTAL ANALYSIS...GROUNDS TO REMIND THE AMBASSADOR OF THE RULES APPLYING TO AN AMBASSADOR'S APPOINTMENT."

3. COMMENT: TABOR IS PROBABLY THE AMBASSADOR MOST DISLIKED BY HIS DANISH FOREIGN SERVICE PROFESSIONALS. THEY REGARD HIM AS UNPRINCIPLED AND UNSCRUPULOUSLY AMBITIOUS. (ONE NEWSPAPER SPECULATED THAT HIS RECENT ACTIONS MAY HAVE BEEN MOTIVATED BY TABOR'S WISH TO INGRATIATE HIMSELF WITH HIS COLLEAGUES IN NEW YORK IN THE HOPE OF BECOMING PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY NEXT YEAR.) A MFA OFFICIAL TOLD POLCOUNS THAT HE AND OTHERS IN THE MINISTRY WERE DISAPPOINTED THAT GULDBERG DID NOT SEIZE THIS OCCASION TO FIRE TABOR.

4. GULDBERG WAS NOT THE MAIN FOCUS OF CRITICISM IN THIS AFFAIR. THE WHOLE MATTER WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY, HOWEVER, PROVIDE GRIST TO THE MILL OF THOSE, SOME IN HIS OWN MINISTRY, WHO CONTINUE TO ACCUSE HIM OF MALADMINISTRATION OF DENMARK'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

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